

2015

STATE OF ALABAMA
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
ANNUAL REPORT





A MESSAGE FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL LUTHER STRANGE

It is an honor for me to continue serving as Alabama's 49th Attorney General. During the first year of my second term we have seen many significant developments in our state. I am proud of the hard work done by the talented lawyers and staff of the Attorney General's Office to ensure that Alabamians' financial and physical safety are protected and our laws are upheld.

The Alabama Attorney General's office has a larger scope of responsibility than most of its counterparts despite having to accomplish these additional duties with one of the smallest staffs of state Attorneys General in the country.

[The highlight of 2015 was the successful conclusion of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill case which resulted in a \\$1 billion economic damages settlement for the State of Alabama.](#) As Coordinating Counsel for the Gulf Oil Spill litigation, I devoted many of my office's resources to the pursuit of a fair settlement for the State of Alabama that will benefit Alabama taxpayers for the next 18 years.

The previous year also saw victories in Alabama's cases in defense of school choice with the Supreme Court's affirmation of the Alabama Accountability Act, as well as in ethics reform in government when a federal court upheld Alabama's PAC-to-PAC transfer ban. The Consumer Protection Section of the Attorney General's Office [recovered over \\$4 million for the State of Alabama in settlements and an additional \\$3 million in relief for Alabama consumers.](#)

Investigators from this office worked alongside other state, local and federal law enforcement in targeting drug trafficking in our state, and our Cold Case Unit helped bring to justice an Alabama man responsible for the murder of his wife 17 years ago.

During 2015, my office also hosted the annual Law Enforcement Summit bringing together officials from all over the state to discuss new strategies for addressing drug abuse.

It is a privilege to serve the people of Alabama as Attorney General.

Sincerely,


Luther Strange

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ALABAMA'S HISTORIC SETTLEMENT WITH BP

The State of Alabama reached a landmark settlement with BP in 2015. In July, Attorney General Luther Strange and Governor Robert Bentley announced BP's agreement to pay the state \$1 billion for economic damages suffered by Alabama taxpayers from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

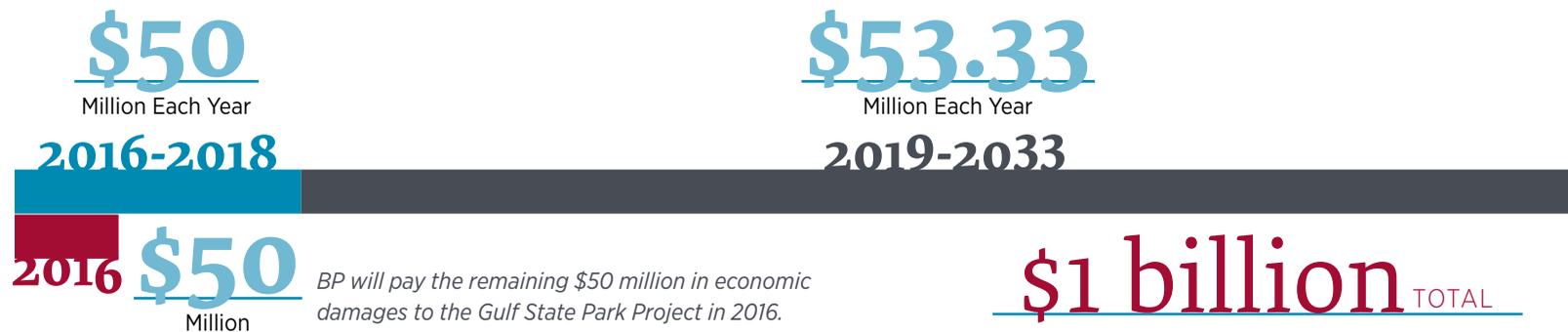
Attorney General Strange was the court-appointed coordinating counsel for all five Gulf states in the litigation against BP and its co-defendants. The agreement capped five years of litigation by the Attorney General's Office during which staff attorneys logged more than 20,000 hours to recoup state revenue losses brought by the unprecedented environmental disaster.



Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange speaks about a state settlement with BP for the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Thursday, July 2, 2015, at the Capitol building in Montgomery, Ala. (Albert Cesare/The Montgomery Advertiser) Associated Press, July 2, 2015

www.ago.state.al.us/news-664

UNDER THE ECONOMIC DAMAGES SETTLEMENT, BP WILL PAY ALABAMA'S GENERAL FUND \$950 MILLION OVER 18 YEARS



OVER \$1 BILLION TO BE SPENT IN COASTAL ALABAMA

In addition to the state-negotiated settlement, the United States government reached an environmental and economic damages settlement with BP to benefit Alabama's coastal counties.

>> **\$295 million** in Natural Resource Damages to restore Alabama's coastal environment.

>> **\$708 million** in RESTORE Act funds to be spent in Baldwin and Mobile counties for environmental restoration and economic recovery projects.

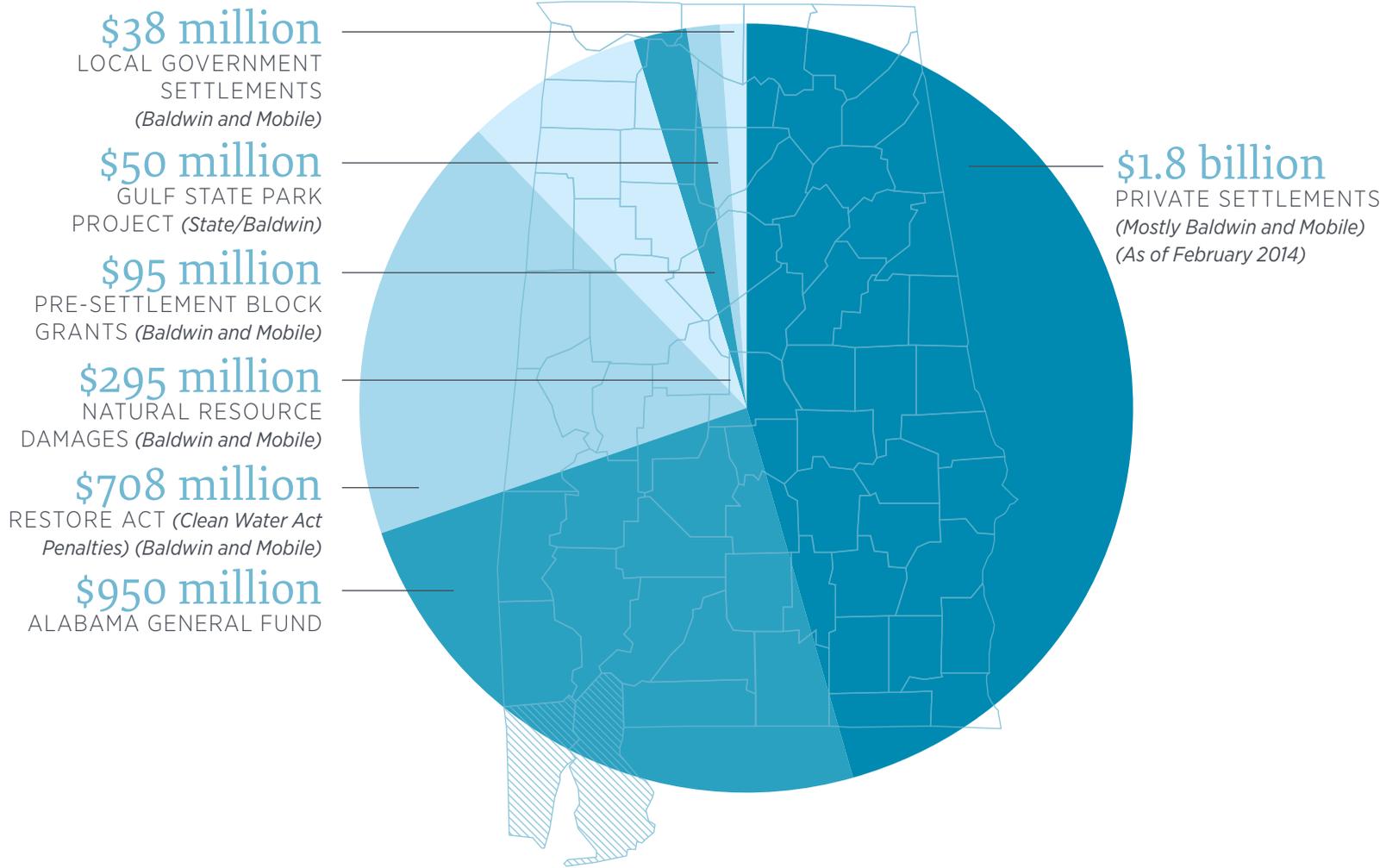
>> Additionally, many communities in Baldwin and Mobile counties received direct economic settlements from BP, adding another **\$38+ million** to the regional total.

These settlements follow previously agreed upon payments from BP to the Alabama Gulf Coast in the form of \$1.8 billion (as of February 2014) in private settlements and block grants to bolster regional tourism and the local seafood industry.

ADDITIONAL **\$10 million**
IN ATTORNEY FEES FROM BP

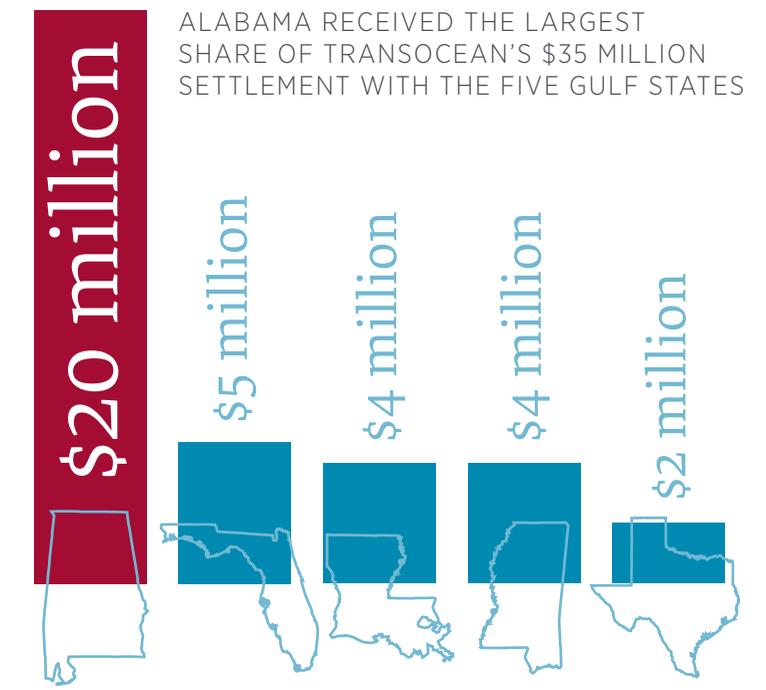
By largely relying upon its staff attorneys to pursue Alabama's damages case, the Attorney General's Office was able to secure \$10 million in attorney fees from BP, on top of the \$1 billion BP will pay the State. This money will partially fund the AG's 2016 operations, freeing scarce tax dollars in the state's General Fund for other uses.

BP OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT IMPACT ON ALABAMA (WHAT AND WHERE?)



TRANSOCEAN SETTLEMENT

In October, Transocean paid \$20 million into Alabama's General Fund to settle the State's remaining claims against the company for its role in the disastrous 2010 Gulf oil spill. Alabama's sizable recovery, compared to the other Gulf states, was a result of the Attorney General's Office vigorously pursuing the case against the oil rig operator while simultaneously litigating the State's larger case against BP.



www.ago.state.al.us/News-664
www.ago.state.al.us/News-724
www.ago.state.al.us/News-732

SOLICITOR GENERAL UPHOLDING ALABAMA LAW AND FIGHTING FEDERAL OVERREACH

The Solicitor General oversees the Attorney General's appeals to the Supreme Court of the United States, the Federal Courts of Appeal, the Alabama Supreme Court, and other appellate courts. Working with the Constitutional Defense Section, the Solicitor General fights to uphold Alabama law and limit federal overreach.

EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN

On October 23, 2015, Alabama joined 25 other states in filing suit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over its Clean Power Plan which aims to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 27 percent by 2030. The EPA plan would increase the average annual Alabama household energy bill by more than \$800 in 2020.

"Today, Alabama joins nearly half of all U.S. states in challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to force millions of Americans to pay higher electric bills in order to satisfy the political agenda of the Obama Administration's war on coal," Strange said in a news release.
AL.com, October 23, 2015.

www.ago.state.al.us/News-733

EPA WATERS OF THE U.S. RULE (WOTUS)

On June 30, 2015, Alabama joined 10 other states in filing suit against the EPA's proposed new regulation to greatly expand federal authority over state waters. The new rule would apply to every stream, ditch, and pond in our state, even those that only occasionally hold water. On October 6, 2015, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted a request from Alabama and 17 other states requesting a nationwide stay of the WOTUS rule.

"The stay was immediately met with praise by Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange, who called WOTUS 'flawed' and 'an unprecedented power grab'. Strange said the EPA's rule 'practically extends to every landowner's property and is so far reaching and overly broad that even the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has expressed serious concerns about its ability to be enforced.'" WSFA TV, October 9, 2015

www.ago.state.al.us/News-727

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AMNESTY

On December 3, 2014, Alabama joined a multi-state lawsuit against the Obama administration over its Deferred Action for Parents of Americans executive amnesty program. During 2015, a Federal district court issued an injunction against the president's amnesty program that was upheld by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The federal appeals court ruled that the 26 states, including Alabama, were justified in seeking an injunction of the president's unlawful executive amnesty order.

(AG Strange): "The federal appeals court upheld the argument advanced by Texas, Alabama and 24 other states that President Obama has no legal authority to unilaterally grant amnesty to nearly five million undocumented aliens without the consent of Congress or the review of the states. This is precisely what the president has done in this case and his actions have been halted by the courts." Yellowhammernews.com, November 10, 2015

www.ago.state.al.us/News-740

PROTECTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

On April 30, 2015, Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange filed an amicus brief on behalf of the State of Alabama and 20 other states in *Peruta v. County of San Diego* challenging the handgun ownership restrictions of San Diego County, California, which effectively bar the carrying of a handgun outside the home.

"San Diego's gun ownership laws effectively prohibit both open carry and concealed carry, denying its citizens their Second Amendment right to bear arms and depriving their ability to defend themselves outside the home," Strange stated. "It is important that states, including Alabama, which adhere to the strict preservation of the Second Amendment, speak out whenever and wherever the right to bear arms is under assault." AL.com, May 1, 2015

www.ago.state.al.us/News-629

ENFORCING ALABAMA'S GUN LAWS

Under Ala. Code § 13A-11-61.3, the Attorney General investigates formal complaints about violations of Alabama's firearms law by state government entities. The statute also empowers him to compel compliance by filing suit. During 2015, more than a dozen such complaints were investigated by the Attorney General's Office, with at least eight resulting in changes, including the Alabama Department of Transportation's decision to end its ban on firearms at rest stops.

"Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange says several local and state agencies have started complying with gun laws after his office investigated complaints against them. Strange said in a statement Wednesday that the Alabama Department of Transportation has rescinded a ban on firearms at rest stops after his office told the agency the ban was illegal." Associated Press, July 29, 2015

www.ago.alabama.gov/Page-Firearms-Alabama-Public-Statements-13A-11-61-3

VICTORY IN U.S. SUPREME COURT

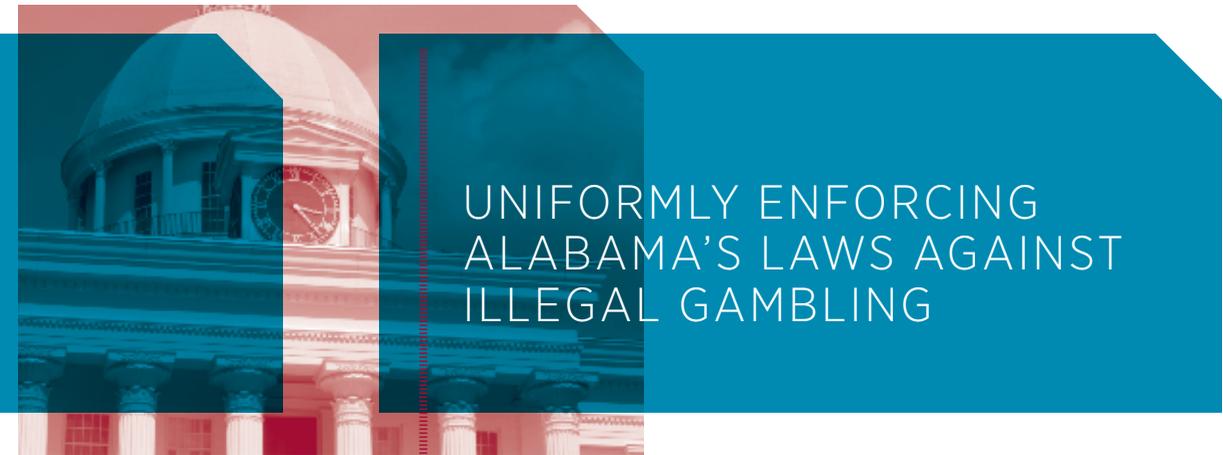
On March 4, 2015, the Attorney General's Office won a significant victory in the U.S. Supreme Court that overturned lower court rulings against the enforceability of the State's sales tax. In *Alabama Department of Revenue v. CSX Transportation, Inc.*, the Supreme Court held that lower courts had wrongfully ruled Alabama's sales tax on railroad diesel fuel to be preempted by the federal "4-R Act." This victory protects millions of dollars in state sales tax revenue that is earmarked for education.

"Alabama scored a key legal victory in its ongoing battle with CSX Transportation over a fuel tax charged to railroads. ...Had Alabama lost the case, it could have dealt another financial blow to Alabama, which is already coping with budget challenges." Birmingham Business Journal, March 3, 2015

www.ago.state.al.us/News-602

CONSTITUTIONAL DEFENSE

The Constitutional Defense Section handles complex civil lawsuits filed against state agencies and officials. Cases successfully litigated by this Section include class actions, voting rights litigation, and state and federal constitutional challenges to Alabama statutes. In 2015, attorneys worked to protect the State's interests in diverse litigation involving Alabama's marriage laws, the Legislature's redistricting plan, and the following areas of law.



UNIFORMLY ENFORCING ALABAMA'S LAWS AGAINST ILLEGAL GAMBLING

SCHOOL CHOICE

Section attorneys persuaded the Alabama Supreme Court in early March to uphold as constitutional the Alabama Accountability Act, a 2013 law creating a school-choice program for students in "failing" public schools.

"The question of the constitutionality of the Alabama Accountability Act is settled once and for all," Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange said in a statement. "The Alabama Supreme Court has rejected all claims against the Act and thereby handed a victory to parents wishing more flexibility for their children's education." AL.com, March 2, 2015

www.ago.state.al.us/News-601

GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY

As part of much-needed ethics reform, the Legislature banned political action committees (PACs) from transferring funds among one another—a practice that savvy political operatives had exploited to disguise the true sources and recipients of campaign contributions. After expedited litigation in 2014, a federal court in Birmingham concluded in August that the plaintiffs in *Alabama Democratic Conference v. Strange* had failed to sustain their as-applied First Amendment challenge to the law.

"Attorney General Strange lauded the Court's ruling. 'I am pleased that the Court has upheld this important tool in Alabama's ongoing fight against public corruption. We will continue to defend the PAC-to-PAC transfer law whenever necessary." Birmingham Times, August 4, 2015

www.ago.state.al.us/News-689

VOTING RIGHTS

Attorneys worked successfully with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and the Secretary of State's office to avoid litigation with the Department of Justice over those agencies' compliance with federal voter registration laws. In a separate matter involving the Department of Justice, attorneys obtained approval from the federal courts to enforce a new State law that will protect the voting rights of military and overseas voters while simultaneously respecting the interests of voters at home in Alabama.

ABORTION

In *Reproductive Health Services v. Strange*, attorneys led the defense of amendments to the statutory procedures for teen girls who seek a court order allowing them to obtain an abortion without a parent's permission. A 2014 law requires a local District Attorney to participate in these so-called judicial "bypass" hearings on behalf of the State. It also clarifies the presiding judge's authority to take other measures to determine the girl's maturity or best interests—all while requiring the bypass proceedings to remain expeditious and confidential. Represented by the ACLU, a Montgomery abortion clinic challenged the new procedures in federal court; and also sought a preliminary injunction against them. Attorneys opposed the lawsuit, including by presenting oral argument in mid-March 2015.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Attorneys won an important victory that will continue to require convicted sex offenders to register with state authorities. In *McGuire v. Strange*, a federal district court held as constitutional all the major provisions of the Alabama Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification Act.

During 2015, the Attorney General's Office continued to uniformly enforce Alabama's laws against illegal gambling. In January, Attorney General Strange issued a memo to law enforcement across the state underscoring the progress made since 2011 in closing illegal gambling operations and seizing illegal machines due to the coordinated efforts of local police, sheriffs and district attorneys. Also during 2015, the Attorney General's Office, following up on its pledge to give everyone their day in court, pursued a final court decision in the state's pending illegal gambling cases against the Poarch Creek Indian casinos and VictoryLand.

www.ago.alabama.gov/File-AGStrangeGamblingMemoJan2015

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Consumer Protection Division provides consumer education, processes consumer complaints, and mediates retail-based disputes between consumers and businesses. When mediation is unsuccessful or justice demands further action, the Division may initiate Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA) civil litigation seeking injunctive relief, civil penalties, and monetary damages for affected consumers. DTPA prosecutions may be conducted independently within Alabama or in concert with Consumer Protection offices in other states. In cases of egregious consumer abuse, criminal charges may be brought to protect the rights of consumers.

ALABAMIANS FILED 3,160 CONSUMER COMPLAINTS DURING 2015. TOP FIVE:



KEY CONSUMER CASES IN 2015

EDUCATION MANAGEMENT CORPORATION Attorney General Strange announced a multi-state settlement on November 16, 2015, with for-profit education company Education Management Corporation (EDMC) to significantly reform its recruiting and enrollment practices, and forgive more than \$2,673,129 in loans for approximately 2,135 eligible former students in Alabama. EDMC operates 110 schools in 32 states through education systems including Argosy University, the Art Institutes, Brown Mackie College, and South University. State Attorneys General initiated a multi-state investigation which showed how EDMC aggressively lured prospective students and that students often left the programs with unfulfilled promises and tremendous debt. The multi-state agreement mandates added disclosures to students, including a new interactive online financial disclosure tool for all students who utilize federal student aid or loans; bars misrepresentations to prospective students; prohibits enrollment in unaccredited programs; and institutes an extended period when new students can withdraw with no financial obligation.

www.ago.state.al.us/News-741

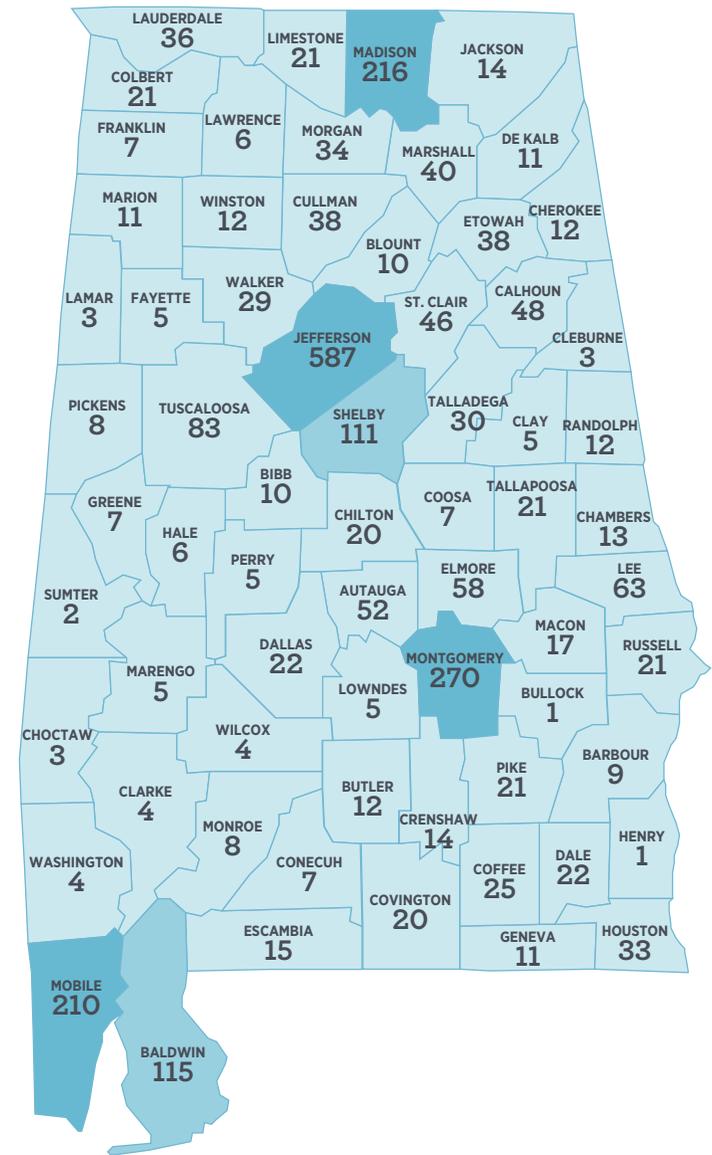
FUNDS RECOVERED



KNOX PEST CONTROL Attorney General Strange and Agriculture Commissioner John McMillan announced a major settlement with Knox Pest Control which provided more than half-a-million dollars in refunds and service credits to over 500 Alabama consumers in 34 counties and nearly \$1 million to the State for attorneys' fees, costs, and penalties. In a complaint filed by the Attorney General in Shelby County on October 2, 2015, the Attorney General alleged that the company sold termite protection agreements that violated the Alabama Deceptive Trade Practices Act. The company agreed to revise its advertising practices and customer contracts to enhance customer awareness, make regular reports to the Department of Agriculture and Industries, and work to ensure all of their employees abide by existing regulations.

www.ago.state.al.us/News-723

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS BY COUNTY



INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigations Division of the Attorney General's Office investigates a variety of criminal matters, such as white-collar crime, to include fraud, embezzlement and large scale theft, as well as "cold" cases involving unsolved homicides and rapes, and many other types of violent crimes. Many of these investigations are conducted independently, but some are handled in collaboration with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The Division also has a Special Agent assigned full-time at the local High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task force.

INVESTIGATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

>> A cold case investigation resulted in the arrest and conviction of a former Jackson County resident for the 1997 murder of Michelle Townson Whitton, the defendant's wife.

www.ago.state.al.us/News-720



"Standing outside of the Jackson County Courthouse, in front of the media and onlookers, Attorney General Luther Strange called it a very important day for the county. 'There's a collective sigh of relief across Jackson County today,' said Strange. 'Justice has been served on a convicted murderer.'" The Daily Sentinel, Scottsboro, October 16, 2015

>> Convictions were won in August in a cold case investigation involving violent rapes in Morgan County in 1985 and 1986. Daniel Leon Garth was sentenced to 99 years for each of three rapes and 33 years for each of three burglaries.

>> A cold case investigation into a suspect that is currently serving a life sentence for an armed robbery in Hale County and violent rape in Jefferson County has resulted in a guilty plea on additional charges of first degree rape and attempted murder in Jefferson County from 2008.

>> A joint five-month investigation by HIDTA and the Attorney General resulted in the arrest of 13 suspects on State drug trafficking and conspiracy charges and another 8 suspects on federal drug charges.

www.ago.state.al.us/News-702



"According to Attorney General Luther Strange's office, those facing state charges of violating Alabama's Anti-Drug Trafficking Enterprise Act are Montgomery residents." Montgomery Advertiser, August 18, 2015

>> An investigation into the attempted murder of a State Trooper out of Perry County resulted in the arrest and conviction of a woman who was later sentenced to 30 years in prison.

>> An investigation resulted in the arrest and conviction of a Shelby County resident on capital murder charges in relation to a brutal murder that occurred in March of 2012.

>> An investigation resulted in a Baldwin County resident being arrested and indicted on 45 counts of possession of child pornography.

QUICK FACTS

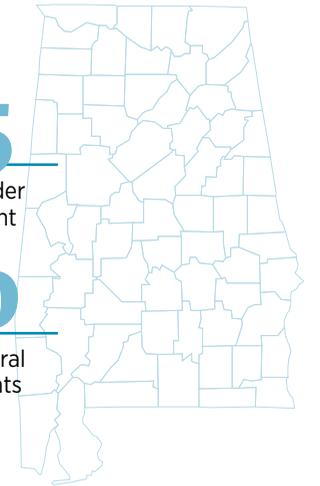
IMPACT ON ALABAMA: ALL 67 COUNTIES

132
Pending Investigations

35
Cases Under Indictment

28
New State Indictments

40
New Federal Indictments



\$1,485,856

HIDTA RELATED CURRENCY AND ASSETS SEIZED IN 2015

HIDTA RELATED NARCOTIC SEIZURES 2015

122
Pounds of Cocaine

30
Pounds of GHB

31
Pounds of Synthetic Marijuana

>> An 18-month investigation into a multi-state credit card fraud that was orchestrated out of the State of Alabama's Elmore Correctional facility prison cell in Elmore County has resulted in the arrest and conviction of two state inmates, one business owner and another resident out of Muscle Shoals on fraudulent use of a credit card, identity theft and theft of property. During this investigation AGO agents recovered more than \$15,000 in stolen property that will be returned to the victims.

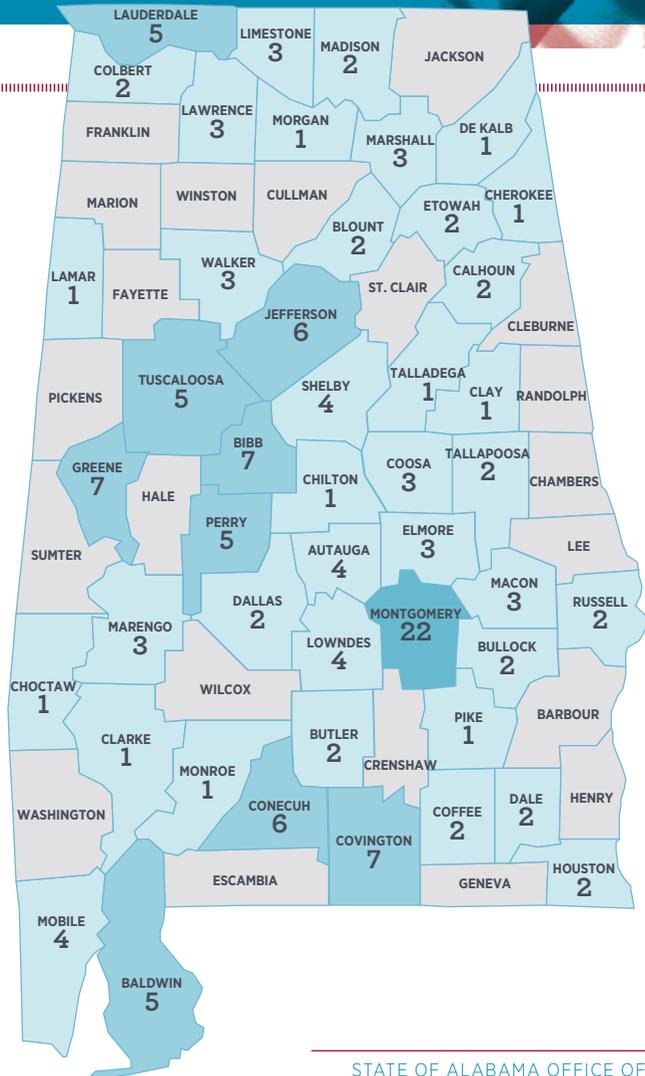
CRIMINAL TRIALS

The Criminal Trials Division in the Office of the Attorney General prosecutes cases in courts throughout the State of Alabama. Most of the cases are violent crimes but the Division also prosecutes thefts from private businesses and other white collar crimes. Generally, the Division prosecutes crimes when district attorneys or law enforcement request assistance, have conflicts, or do not have the resources to prosecute complex cases. The Criminal Trials Division is also responsible for prosecuting illegal gambling and pursuing gambling forfeiture actions.

CRIMINAL APPEALS

Simply put, the Criminal Appeals Section is the district attorney's "backstop." It is the largest Section within the Attorney General's Office and represents the State in all non-death penalty criminal proceedings. Lawyers in this Section work closely with trial judges, district attorneys, and law enforcement officers to ensure that criminal convictions are upheld. Lawyers also recommend legislation to the Attorney General that will strengthen Alabama's criminal statutes.

CASES BY COUNTY



QUICK FACTS

IMPACT ON ALABAMA:
47 COUNTIES

114

Active Cases

32

Grand Juries

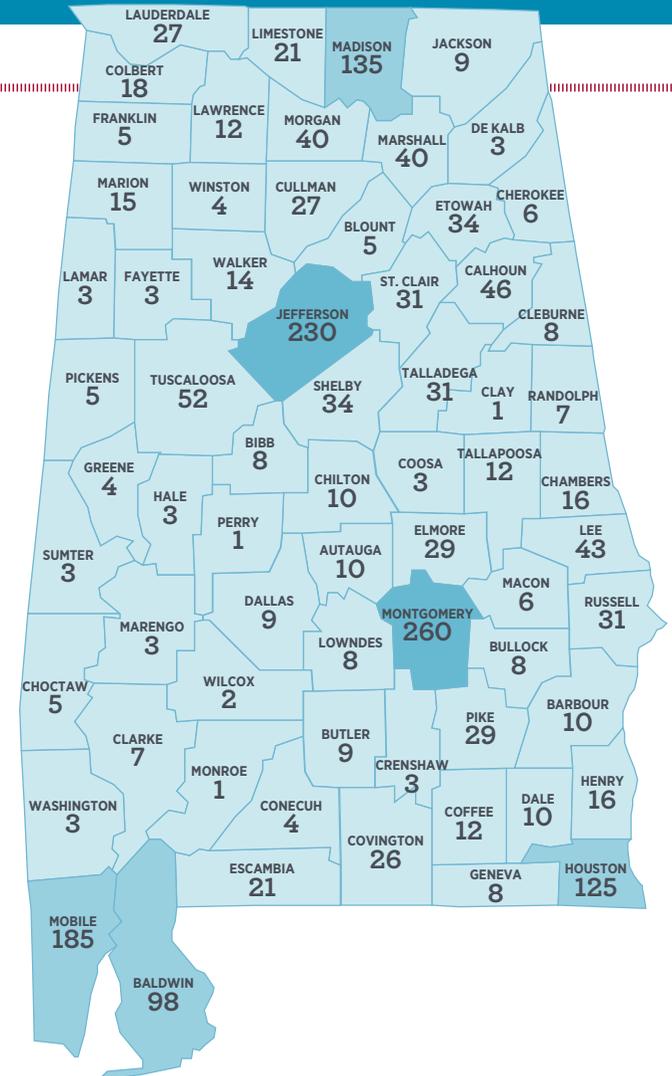
19

Pleas

12

Trials

CASES BY COUNTY



QUICK FACTS

IMPACT ON ALABAMA:
ALL 67 COUNTIES

1916

Cases and Related Matters Opened

55 IN-STATE
29 OUT-OF-STATE

Extraditions

95%

of Convictions Upheld in the Court of Criminal Appeals

96%

of Convictions Upheld in the Alabama Supreme Court

CAPITAL LITIGATION

The Capital Litigation Section represents the State in all appeals in state and federal courts in which a criminal defendant convicted of capital murder has received a death sentence, including the direct appeal, state post-conviction proceedings or Rule 32 stage, and federal habeas corpus proceedings. During 2015, this Section handled the following:

ACTIVE APPEALS CASES BY COUNTY

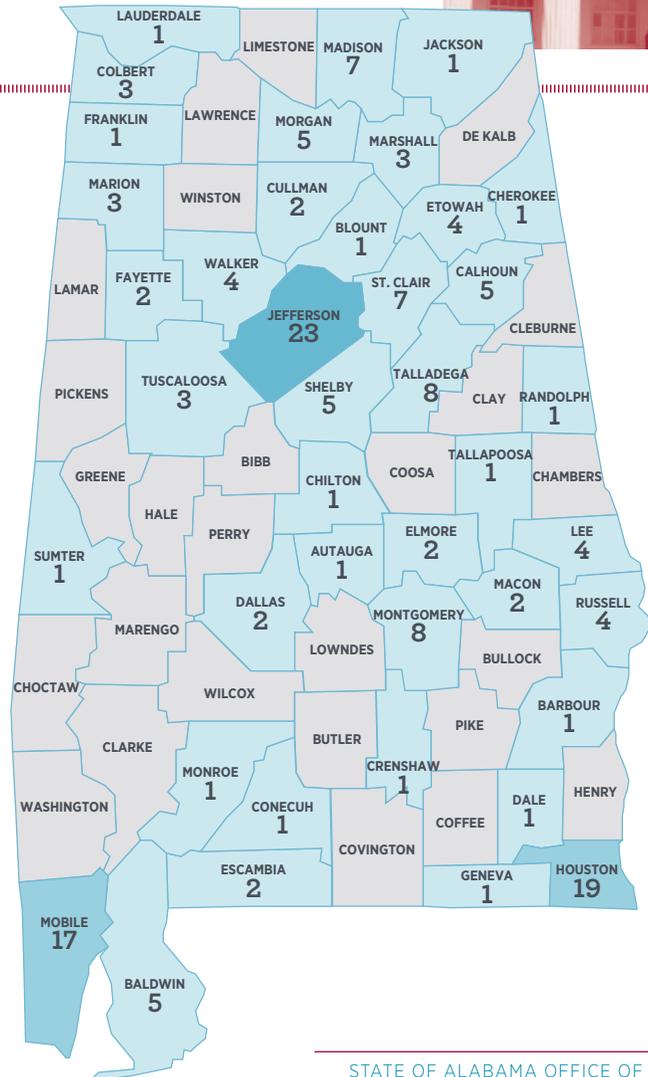
QUICK FACTS
IMPACT ON ALABAMA:
41 COUNTIES

190

Defendants on Death Row
(as of 11/30/2015)

165

Cases Worked or
Presented in Court



CRIME VICTIMS

The Attorney General's Office of Victim Assistance (AGOVA) assists victims of violent crime, providing victims and their families a place to turn before, during, and after their offender's sentencing. Our goal is to help victims in understanding the judicial process, advocate on their behalf, and maintain contact so they can remain informed about the case that has impacted their lives. AGOVA delivers direct victim assistance and referrals for victims through our toll-free hotline, 1-800-626-7676. Additional information can be found on the Attorney General's office website at www.ago.alabama.gov/ **Page-Victims-Assistance** or via www.victims.alabama.gov.

CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTED BY COUNTY

QUICK FACTS
IMPACT ON ALABAMA:
ALL 67 COUNTIES

818

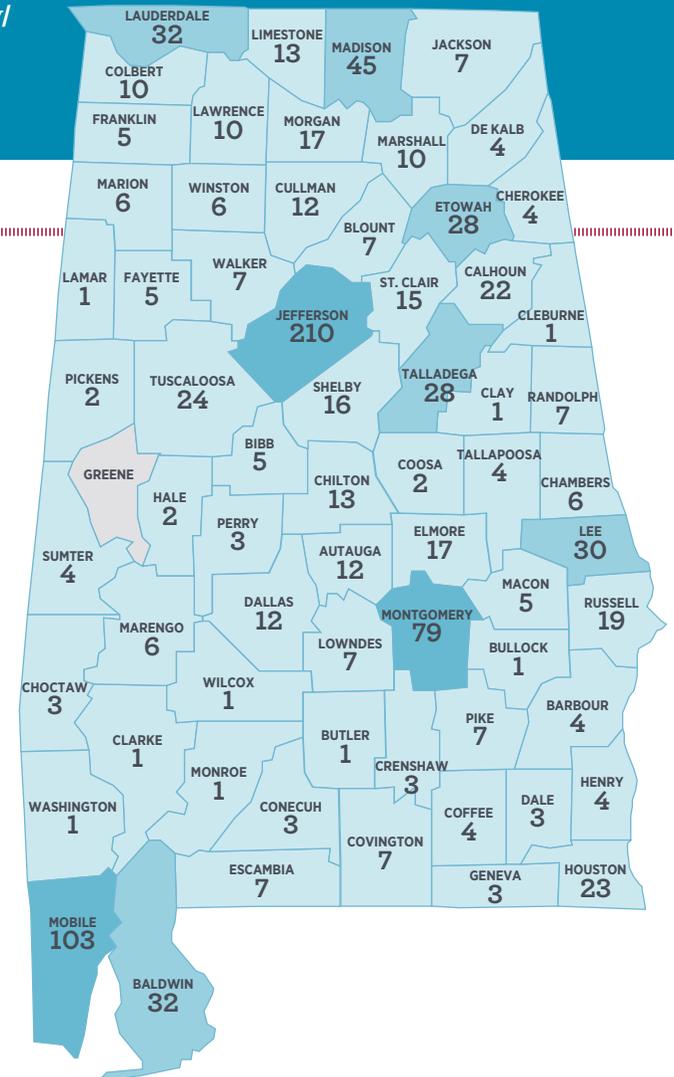
Phone Calls & Emails
Received from Hotline

507

Victims Assisted at Board of
Pardons and Paroles Hearings

1,875

Appeals Screened



GENERAL CIVIL DIVISION

The General Civil Division provides defenses for state officials, state employees, and state agencies in all courts. In 2015, the legal staff expended over 6,000 hours defending state employees of the Department of Corrections, the Administrative Office of Courts, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Revenue, the State Military Department, the Department of Forensic Sciences, and various District Attorney's Offices, as well as the Governor and members of the Legislature, in every stage of litigation and in over 100 court appearances and six federal trials.

Attorneys in the Civil Division act as "general counsel" for 58 regulatory boards or commissions, and provide counsel to many more. Each quarter attorneys attend an average of 30-40 board meetings and prosecute approximately 50 disciplinary actions.

The Division's attorneys participate in NAAG Multistate Antitrust investigations, review all complaints challenging the constitutionality of statutes or having impact on beneficiaries of charitable trusts, and provide initial review and recommendations to the Chief Deputy for dispositions of

proposals to file, defend or settle cases involving any state party. The General Civil Division provides an Administrative Law Judge to hear State Employees Injury Compensation Trust Fund and Students First appeals.

The Civil Division reviews all claims presented to the Alabama Board of Adjustment for death benefits or disability benefits for peace officers and firefighters who are either killed or disabled in the line of duty or due to an occupational disease. The Division also participates in the review of proposed Attorney General Opinions to be issued by the Attorney General.

BOARDS & AGENCIES REPRESENTED

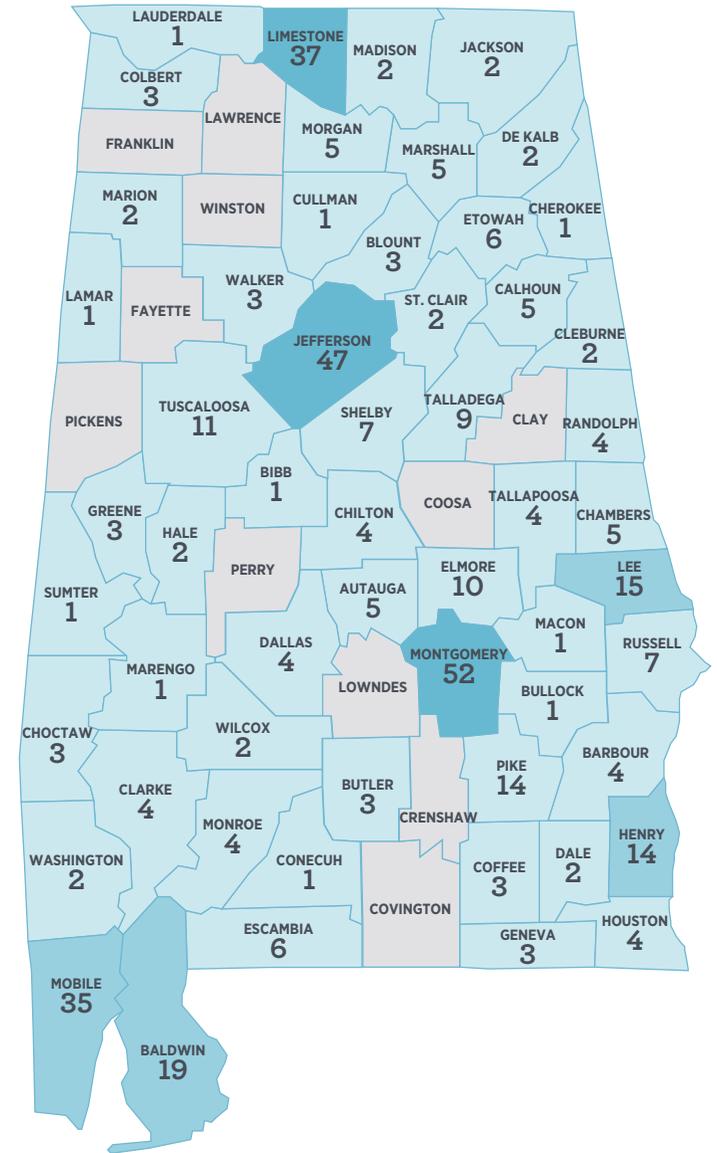
Board of Accountancy
Architects
Archives and History
Armory Commission
Council on Arts and Humanities
Assisted Living Administrators
Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers
Athletic Trainers Commission
Children's Trust Fund
Consumer's Utility Rate Hearing Fund
Contract Review Committee
Court Reporters' Board
Board of Cosmetology
Board of Examiners in Counseling
Criminal Justice Information Center
Dental Scholarship Board

Dietetics Board
Dry Cleaning Environmental Response
Educational Television
Electronic Security Licensure
Engineers and Land Surveyors
Environmental Mgt. Commission
Examiners of Public Accounts
Board of Registration for Foresters
Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists
Governor's Mansion Authority
Hearing Instrument Dealers Board
Heating and Air Conditioning
High School Athletic Association
Historic Blakely Authority
Historic Iron Works Commission

Historical Commission
Indian Affairs
Interpreters Commission
Interior Design Board
Landscape Architects
Library Services
Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board
Marriage & Family Therapy
Massage Therapy Board
Military Department
Multiple Needs Child Office
Music Hall of Fame
Nursing Home Administrators Board
Occupational Therapy Board
Onsite Wastewater
Peace Officers Benefit & Annuity Fund

Peace Officers Standards & Training
Physical Therapy Board
Board of Podiatry
Polygraph Examiners Board
Records Commission
Registrars
Respiratory Therapy
Sickle Cell Commission
Social Worker Examiners
Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Speech Pathology and Audiology
St. Stephens Historical Society
Tourism and Travel
Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

CASES BY COUNTY



OPINIONS

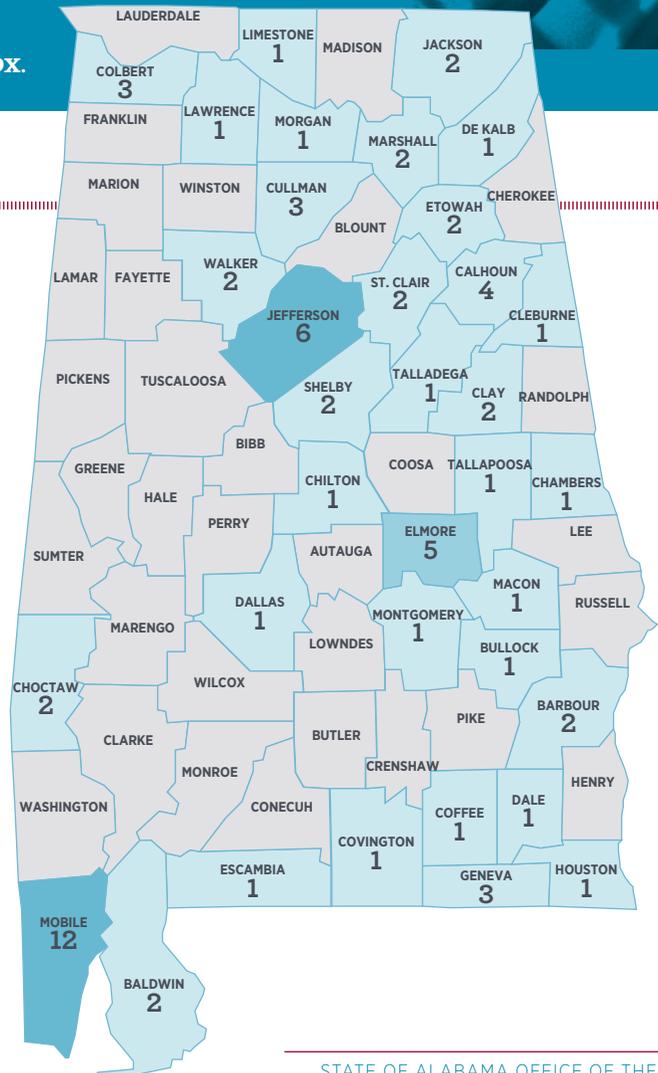
The Attorney General's Office Opinions Section issues written opinions on questions of law upon receipt of a written request from state departments, agencies, boards, and commissions, as well as authorized local public officials and local government entities. The Opinions Section also furnishes opinions for the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in each legislative house whenever a matter is under consideration by the Committee. A searchable database of all opinions issued from 1979 to the present is available to the public at

www.ago.state.al.us/Opinions.aspx.

INVESTIGATING PUBLIC CORRUPTION

The Special Prosecutions Division ("SPD") was formed in 2012 by Attorney General Luther Strange as part of the Office's ongoing commitment to fight public corruption. Since that time, SPD investigators and prosecutors continue to investigate and prosecute crimes involving the breach of public trust by public officials and employees. The Division is comprised of attorneys and investigators who have many years of state and federal experience successfully prosecuting corruption and other complex criminal matters.

OPINIONS ISSUED BY COUNTY



QUICK FACTS

OPINIONS WERE ISSUED TO:

23

Municipal Officials

46

County Officials

11

State Agencies/
Departments/Boards

The prosecutors, investigators, and support staff of the SPD form a team that works together from the initiation of an investigation until the completion of any resulting criminal case. The Division conducts multiple long-term grand jury investigations that include the use of special grand juries. When appropriate, the SPD works with local prosecutors and the United States Department of Justice to deter and prosecute crimes involving public corruption. The Division operates in accordance with the highest standards of professionalism, accountability and impartiality.

The SPD also leads a major cooperative initiative among state agencies to fight public corruption. The Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Alliance (AGSPA) brings together partner agencies that work together and maximize resources in order to more effectively combat public corruption. The Chief of the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Division serves as the Director of AGSPA. Leadership representatives of the partner agencies comprise an advisory committee to advise the Attorney General on matters pertaining to public corruption and the preservation of governmental integrity.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S 16TH ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMIT

Attorney General Luther Strange led the 16th annual Attorney General's Law Enforcement Summit September 29, 2015, carrying on a tradition since 2000. This year's theme was "Meeting the Challenges of Drug Abuse through Education, Communication, and Collaboration."



ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Nearly 600 law enforcement officers from across the State of Alabama attended the one-day event in Montgomery to receive practical information and professional training on current drug abuse trends and how to protect Alabamians from this pervasive problem.

This year's conference featured presentations from law enforcement experts on such topics as "Protecting Students: Teacher Misconduct Laws"; "Prescription Drugs, Heroin, GHB, and Spice"; "Forensics Drug Analysis and Evidence"; "GHB—Problems on Campuses"; "Drug Enforcement in Alabama"; "K9 Presentation"; "Drug Investigation and Prosecution"; "Cyber Crime Investigation"; and "Cell Phone Evidence and Case Solving."



A somber highlight of the day came with the commemoration of fallen Alabama law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty during the past year.

DEPUTY SHERIFF JOHN T. WILLIAMSON of the Butler County Sheriff's Office died on October 25, 2014. He suffered a heart attack after a struggle with someone he was trying to arrest and died a few days later following a second heart attack.

SERGEANT JEFFREY W. GARRETT of the Dothan Police Department died on October 27, 2014. He suffered a heart attack while participating in a training run.

DEPUTY SHERIFF JAMES "BART" HART of the Elmore County Sheriff's Office died on November 23, 2014. He was killed when his patrol car was struck head-on by another vehicle that was traveling at high speed and crossed the center line.

SERGEANT CHARLES KERRY MITCHUM of the Loxley Police Department died on January 26, 2015. He was killed in a single-vehicle crash while en-route to the sheriff's office firing range.

PATROLMAN ROGER O'DELL of the Town Creek Police Department died on January 28, 2015. He suffered a heart attack after taking two escaped juveniles into custody.

LIEUTENANT RICHARD WOODS of the Pell City Police Department died on March 17, 2015. He suffered a heart attack while helping to rescue several teenagers from a vehicle after a serious accident.

OFFICER DAVID LEE COLLEY of the Montgomery Police Department died on April 4, 2015. He was responding to a call when a tractor trailer truck collided with his vehicle.

On May 7, 2015, Attorney General Strange joined the Alabama Legislature in honoring two police officers for extraordinary courage in the line of duty. The Alabama Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement was awarded to Huntsville Police officers Jason Moore and Reynard Robinson for their bravery and actions during a domestic dispute that turned violent.

Police officers Moore and Robinson embodied the highest professional standards in responding to a life-threatening and volatile situation on the night of April 4, 2014. While attempting to break up a street fight, Officer Moore was shot in the head, neck and shoulder. Wounded, he and Officer Robinson worked together to secure the area, call for SWAT backup, and end the standoff.





FOR MORE INFORMATION

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